

**The Northern Fisheries.**—Perhaps the greatest opportunity for expansion of the fresh-water fisheries lies in Canada's northern areas. The Yukon and Northwest Territories contain two of the earth's largest lakes and two mighty rivers, besides literally thousands of lesser waters, many of which have not been explored. On the northern edge of the Continent is the Arctic Coast which extends roughly 10,000 miles from the Bering Sea to Hudson Strait.

In the northland lakes and rivers, a few species, like the inconnu, the Arctic grayling or "bluefish" and the Arctic char, have not been found anywhere else in Canada. Others like whitefish, trout, salmon, pike and pickerel are familiar to most Canadians. The sports fish have gained fame among the anglers for their huge size and fighting characteristics. The food fish have achieved similar recognition from the commercial operators for their abundance and table qualities. As the line of civilization pushes northward, it is expected that greater use will be made of these resources. The business of exporting fish is now well established in the northern areas of the three Prairie Provinces and at Great Slave Lake. Great Slave is one of the greatest single producers of whitefish and lake trout and has yielded more than 40,000,000 lb. of fish since commercial fishing began in 1945. In view of the importance of the fish of this and other lakes as a food supply to the native Indians, the Federal Government permits commercial fishing in the Northwest Territories only when it is evident that the commercial "take" will not affect the continuity of supply of fish to the natives. Landings of whitefish and lake trout from Great Slave are thus limited to an annual quota of 9,000,000 lb.

The scattered communities of Indians, Eskimos and white residents in the north have long depended on fish for food both for themselves and their sled dogs. Along the Arctic Coast, the Eskimos depend on the beluga, the seal and various kinds of fish for practically all their daily requirements. The beluga, commonly called a "white whale" is actually a mammal of the dolphin or porpoise family. A successful summer whaling season means prosperity for all Eskimos in the community.

Moreover, the migrations of beluga to the mouth of the Churchill River from Hudson Bay give Manitoba the distinction of being an inland province with a whale fishery. Operating under a permit granted by the Minister of Fisheries and with a quota set each season by the federal authorities, an establishment at Churchill renders the animals into oil and meal. Local Indians are employed to hunt the belugas.

The Eskimos make great use of the seals found in the Arctic waters, the oil making good dog food, the meat providing substantial dinner fare and the skin making waterproof boots and parkas. Large amounts of Arctic char, herring, whitefish and inconnu are eaten and an Eskimo who starts the winter with less than eight to ten thousand fish can look to lean days ahead.

The Fisheries Research Board is attempting to find out more about the fisheries resources along the Arctic Coast and around the Islands of the District of Franklin. The Board operates a specially constructed research boat, the *Calanus*, which has been making regular trips to Eastern Arctic waters each summer since 1949. These studies are now being extended to Hudson Bay and the Beaufort Sea. In Ungava Bay, the Board has found that both the Atlantic cod and the Greenland shark provide possibilities of exploitation by the Eskimo populations there and the federal authorities have tried to educate the inhabitants to take greater advantage of the supply.